

Message Text

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51

ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SSO-00 /023 W

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O 041400Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5585

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4523

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, ACOM

SUBJECT: HANDLING OF COURIER POUCHES IN WARSAW

REF: (A) STATE 171913; (B) FRANKFURT 5416; (C) WARSAW

4390; (D) FRANKFURT 5626; (E) FRANKDURT 5626;

(F) OM, O/OC, MARCH 11, 1969; (G) OM, O/SY,

APRIL 2, 1969.

DEPARTMENT FOR CHIEF, O/SY/FO

FRANKFURT FOR REGIONAL COURIER OFFICER AND FOR REGIONAL
SECURITY SUPERVISOR

1. ON AUGST 30, FRANK IRWIN, REGIONAL COURIER OFFICE,
FRANKFURT, ARRIVED AT THIS POST. ON AUGUST 31, WITH
THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFIER AND RSO, IRWIN VIEWED THE
PROPOSED AIRPORT EXCHANGE PROCEDURE AS OUTLINE IN
REF B. IRWIN IS THUS FAMILIAR WITH THE PROBLEMS AS
DISCUSSED IN REF C. THIS POST TAKES THE POSITION THAT
THE COURIER PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN REF B WOULD PRODUCE
SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS. THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED
IN REF C REMAIN PRIMARY FACTORS IN THE SECURITY WEAK-
NESS OF THE PROPOSAL. ASSUMING ALL CONDITIONS ARE
IDEAL, THE MOST LOGICAL LOCATION FROM WHICH TO OBSERVE
THE AIRCRAFT IS THE AIRPORT RESTAURANT. POLISH AUTHORI-
TIES ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF UTILIZING THIS LOCATION SINCE
THE PRESENCE OF THE POUCHES IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE ATMOS-
PHERE OF THE RESTAURANT.

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2. IT IS THE OPINION OF THE POST THAT THE ONLY WAY SUCCESSFUL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOR OFF-LOADING AND LOADING COULD BE ENFORCED WOULD BE FOR THE EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIVES TO BE ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE AIRCRAFT PARKING AREA. AS OF THIS DATE THE POLISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT AUTHORIZED AN EMBASSY OFFICERS FREE MOVEMENT IN THIS AREA OR EVEN ACCESS TO THE RAMP. DISCUSSIONS WITH WESTERN DIPLOMATIC MISSION REVEAL THAT THE BRITISH EMBASSY WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE APRON IN MARCH, 1973, AND THE AUSTRALIAN REQUEST WAS REFUSED IN AUGUST. THE EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SUCH PERMISSION BUT, IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, DOES NOT HOLD HIGH HOPES FOR OBTAINING ACCESS.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE SEPARATION OF THE CLASSIFIED POUCHES FROM THE COURIER. WE ASSUME THAT POLISH AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT INDEFINITELY PASS UP OPPORTUNITIES TO EXAMINE THE CONTENTS OF OUR CLASSIFIED POUCHES LOADED IN THE PLANE'S BAGGAGE COMPARTMENT. THE TECHNIQUE OF DEEP-LOADING POUCHES BEHIND BAGGAGE CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AS A TOTAL PREVENTIVE SECURITY MEASURE. AS AN EXAMPLE, ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, WHEN THE COURIERS ARRIVED IN WARSAW, THE BAGGAGE COMPARTMENT OF THE AIRCRAFT HOLDING THE COURIER MATERIAL WAS FILLED WITH NOTHING BUT POUCHES.

4. SHOULD MFA APPROVAL BE OBTAINED TO PERMIT ACCESS TO THE APRON AND SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT DECIDE, CONTRARY TO SERIOUS EMBASSY RESERVATIONS, THAT BAGGAGE COMPARTMENT LOADING PROVIDES ADEQUATE SECURITY, EMBASSY DUTY OFFICERS COULD NOT BE SPARED THE MINIMUM OF TWO HOURS, GIVEN SCHEDULED ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES, NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRES SECURITY COVERAGE. THE EMBASSY IS URGENTLY IN NEED OF A THIRD C&R POSITION AND HAS REQUESTED THIS POSITION IN ITS FY-74 SAS SUBMISSION. IN THE ABSENCE OF THIS POSITION, EMBASSY DUTY OFFICERS ARE UTILIZED TO EFFECT COURIER EXCHANGES. IN FAIRNESS TO DUTY OFFICERS, WHO ARE ALREADY OVERTAXED, THE EMBASSY CANNOT REQUEST THEM TO SPEND MORE THAN DOUBLE THE TIME NOW REQUIRED IN ORDER TO COVER THE PROPOSED NEW COURIER EXCHANGE.

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5. REQUEST RSO WARSAW BE RELIEVED OF THE NARRATIVE REPORTING REQUIREMENT AS ESTABLISHED PARA 2G, REF A, SINCE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IS CONTAINED IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGE BEING RETRANSMITTED TO O/SY/FO.

DAVIES

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NNN

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